

New Zealand Itinerary

| Date | Location / Activity | Description | Lodging |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| Jan 8-10 (Mon-Wed) | Fly Denver (DEN) to Los Angeles (LAX) to Auckland (AKL) to Christchurch (CHC) | Depart DEN 5:05 pm. Arrive LAX 6:28 pm. Depart LAX 10:30 pm (Jan 8). Arrive NAN 5:15 am (Jan 10). Depart NAN 8:45 am. Arrive Auckland (AKL) 12:50 pm. Depart AKL 3:40 pm. Arrive CHC 5:00 pm (one-way) | American #1519 (27 E,F) Air Pacific #0811 (35 A,B) Air Pacific #0411 (19 E,F) Air NZ #539 (8 E,F) |
| SOUTH ISLAND | | | |
| Jan 10-14 (Wed-Sun) | Christchurch | Relax. Buy car. Sightsee in Christchurch & Banks Peninsula. | Vagabond BP (p. 318) – booked |
| Jan 15 (Mon) | Oamaru | Blue penguins (p. 377); Boulders at Moeraki (p. 378) | Empire BP (p. 376) – booked |
| Jan 16 (Tue) | Dunedin | See Dunedin (p. 366) and Otago Peninsula (p. 374) | Chalet BP (p. 368) – booked |
| Jan 17-18 (Wed-Thu) | Te Anau | Relax. Wildlife Center (p. 412); local strolls (p. 412) | Barnyard BP (p. 410) – booked |
| Jan 19-22 (Fri-Mon) | Kepler Track 60 km, 4 days (p. 413) | More difficult. Most accessible of the GWs; awe-inspiring ridge-walk; commanding views of Lake Te Anau & Fiordland. | DOC huts (booked & paid) |
| Jan 22-23 (Mon-Tue) | Te Anau | Relax | Barnyard BP (p. 410) – booked |
| Jan 24-25 (Wed-Thu) | Te Anau | Jan 24: Move to Rosies BP. Explore Milford Road (p. 415). | Rosies BP (p. 410) – booked |
| Jan 26-29 (Fri-Mon) | Milford Track 54 km, 4 days (p. 419) | Moderately difficult. "The finest walk in the world." Two glacial valleys; a spectacular mountain pass; countless cascades. | DOC huts (booked & paid) |
| Jan 29-31 (Mon-Wed) | Te Anau | Relax | Rosies BP (p. 410) – booked |
| Feb 1-2 (Thu-Fri) | Doubtful Sound Kayak | 2-day Doubtful Sound kayak trip with overnight (p. 423) | Feb 1: camp (kayak) – booked |
| Feb 2-3 (Fri-Sat) | Te Anau | Relax | Rosies BP (p. 410) – booked |
| Feb 4-11 (Sun-Sun) | Routeburn Track 33 km, 3 days (p. 392) Greenstone & Caples 50 km, 5 days (p. 394) | RB (more difficult): Traveling high above treeline, this GW skirts grand valleys and overlooks rugged mountain ranges. G&C (more difficult): Cattle graze in paradise, where green mountains overlook the golden meadows of the valley floor. | RB: Huts (booked & paid) G&C: Huts (book on arrival) |
| Feb 11-13 (Sun-Tue) | Te Anau | Feb 13 (Tue): Glowworm caves (2½ hr, NZ \$47 pp) (p. 412) | Rosies BP (p. 410) – booked |
| Feb 14 (Wed) | Glenorchy | Relax | Gl. Hol. Park (p. 392) – e-m |
| Feb 15-19 (Thu-Mon) | Rees-Dart Track 72 km, 5 days (p. 404) | More difficult. Two river valleys crowned with glaciers galore. Daytrip to Cascade Saddle affords "mind-numbing views." | DOC Huts (book on arrival) |
| Feb 19 (Mon) | Glenorchy | Relax | Gl. Hotel (p. 391) – e-m |
| Feb 20-22 (Tue-Thu) | Queenstown | Relax + Adrenaline adventures | Butterfli Lodge (p. 383) – 1 mo pr |
| Feb 23 (Fri) – Mar 23 (Fri) | Explore South Island | No set itinerary. See details on separate page. | (See separate page) |
| Mar 23-24 (Fri-Sat) | Kenepuru Sounds | Relax | Hopewell BP (p. 272) – booked |
| Mar 25 (Sun) | Marahau | Relax | The Barn (p. 294) – booked |
| Mar 26-30 (Mon-Fri) | Abel Tasman Track 51 km, 5 days (p. 296) | Less difficult. Most popular of all the GWs; golden beaches and turquoise ocean views framed by fern-filled forest. | DOC huts (booked & paid) |
| Mar 30 (Fri) | Marahau | Relax | The Barn (p. 294) – booked |
| Mar 31-Apr 1 (Sat-Sun) | Picton | Relax | Villa BP Ldg (p. 270) – booked |
| Apr 2-7 (Mon-Sat) | Queen Charlotte Track 71 km, 5 days (p. 273) | Moderately difficult. This popular, mellow walk winds along shimmering inlets of the Sounds. Transport: Endeavor Express (booked: \$72 pp). 4/2: Depart Picton 8:30 am, arrive Ship Cove 10:45 am. 4/8: Depart Anakiwa 4:30 pm to Picton. | 4/2: Cnoc na Lear (p. 274) – bkd 4/3: Mahana Ldg (p. 276) – bkd 4/4&5: Lochmara (p. 272) – bkd 4/6&7: Anakiwa (p. 277) – bkd Villa BP Ldg (p. 270) – booked |
| Apr 8 (Sun) | Picton | Relax | Villa BP Ldg (p. 270) – booked |
| NORTH ISLAND | | | |
| Apr 9 (Mon) | Car ferry: Picton to Wellington | Bluebridge Ferry: (www.bluebridge.co.nz) (8 am; 3½ hr, NZ \$120 w/car, p. 268). See Wellington (p. 245) | Base BP (p. 250) – booked |
| Apr 10 (Tue) | Paekakariki | Explore Kapiti Coast (p. 258) | Paekakariki BP (p. 260) – booked |
| Apr 11-12 (Wed-Thu) | Koriniti | Explore Whanganui River Road (p. 241) | Flying Fox (p. 242) – booked |
| Apr 13-16 (Fri-Mon) | Whanganui River Journey 145 km, 3 days (p. 239) | More difficult. Only GW requiring a paddle; kayakers battle small rapids beneath luxuriant greenery. Maori marae. Kayaks & transport: Wades Landing Whakahoro (p. 240) | DOC huts (book on arrival) Drive to Whakahoro Hut (4/13) |
| Apr 16-18 (Mon-Wed) | Whakapapa Village | Relax | Skotel (p. 219) – booked |
| Apr 19-22 (Thu-Sun) | Tongariro N. Circuit 51 km, 4 days (p. 215) | More difficult. Winding around 3 great volcanoes, this GW passes lava flows, desolate moonscapes, technicolor lakes. | DOC huts (book on arrival) |
| Apr 22 (Sun) | Whakapapa Village | Relax | Skotel (p. 219) – booked |
| Apr 23-24 (Mon-Tue) | Taupo | Craters of the Moon (p. 208), Huka Falls (p. 208), skydiving (p. 209), Taupo Lake trout fishing (p. 210) | Action Down Under YHA – e-m (p. 207) |
| Apr 25-26 (Wed-Thu) | Rotorua | Wai-o-Tapu (p. 168); zorbing (p. 169); Maori <i>hangi</i> (p. 171) | Funky Green (p. 165) – 1 mo pr |
| Apr 27 (Fri) | "Hobbiton" to Thames | Hobbiton: Matamata east of Cambridge (NZ \$50, p. 151/255) | Sunkist BP (p. 134) – booked |
| Apr 28-29 (Sat-Sun) | Coromandel Town | Apr 28 (morning): Coromandel Scenic Drive (55 km) (p. 135) | The Lion's Den (p. 137) – phone |
| Apr 30-May 1 (Mon-Tue) | Fletcher Bay | May 1: Coromandel Walkway (7.5 km) (p. 139) | Fletcher Bay BP (p. 139) – bkd |
| May 2 (Wed) | Hahei | Cathedral Cove & Hot Water Beach (p. 143) | Tatahi Lodge (p. 142) – booked |
| May 3-6 (Thu-Sun) | Auckland (visit relatives, sell car, see sights) | Sky Tower (p. 95); coast-to-coast walk (p. 96); Waterfront District (p. 98); Devonport (p. 101); Rangitoto Island (p. 103) | Verandahs BP – booked (in Ponsonby; near BP car mkt) |
| FIJI | | | |
| May 7 (Mon) | Fly AKL to Nadi (NAN) | Depart AKL 1:00 pm. Arrive NAN 4:05 pm. <i>Note: All Yasawa Flyer (YF) transport pre-paid.</i> | Air Pacific #0410 (17 E,F) Aquarius Fiji – booked |
| May 8-14 (Tue-Mon) | Tavewa Island | YF 5/8: Nadi to Tavewa (8:30 am – 1:30 pm) | Coral View Resort – booked |
| May 15 (Tue) | Wanna Taki Cruise | YF 5/15: Tavewa to Wanna Taki (1:30 – 2:45 pm) | Wanna Taki Cruise – bkd & paid |
| May 16-22 (Wed-Tue) | Wayasewa Island | YF 5/16: Wanna Taki to Wayasewa (2:45 – 3:45 pm) | Wayalailai Resort – booked |
| May 23-29 (Wed-Tue) | Waya Island | YF 5/23: Wayasewa to Octopus Resort (10:30 – 11:00 am) | Octopus Resort – booked |
| May 30 (Wed) | Nadi (Viti Levu) | Octopus boat to Lautoka (~2:30-4:00 pm w/bus to Nadi hotel) | Aquarius Fiji – booked |
| May 31 (Thu) | Fly NAN to LAX | Depart NAN 10:00 pm. Arrive LAX 1:20 pm Depart LAX 3:45 pm. Arrive DEN 7:00 pm. | Air Pacific #0810 (35 J,K) American #678 (27 E,F) |

One-Month Exploration of South Island February 23 – March 23

General Plan

- Head south from Te Anau on SH99, seeing the few remaining sights in **Fiordland** (p. 408-431) we haven't already seen
- Head to the **Southland** (p. 432-447) on SH92 (Southern Scenic Route) and hang out in the Catlins for awhile
- Explore **Otago** (p. 366-407) other than Queenstown (e.g., Wanaka), following SH8 North
- Head to the **West Coast** (p. 344-365) on SH6 North, driving up the West Coast Highway (SH6 North) to Punakaiki
- Backtrack and cut over to Arthur's Pass on SH73 East to explore a bit more of **Canterbury** (p. 313-343)
- Head up the east coast on SH1 North to **Marlborough Sounds** (p. 266-312), visiting Kaikoura and Blenheim on the way to Hopewell BP Lodge (3/23-3/24). On 3/25, drive to Marahau, starting point for the Abel Tasman Coastal Track.

Fiordland

- Borland Road (p. 426) and Borland Lodge (cabins) for possible stayover.
- Southern Scenic Route – SH92 – Tuatapere to Riverton (p. 425). Mores Coastal Loop Track (2 hr RT) (p. 430). Possible stayover in Riverton

Southland

- Hang out in the Catlins for awhile, driving from Kaka Point to Slope Point. Enjoy top-notch backpackers in Purakaunui (Falls Backpackers, p. 439), Papatowai (Hilltop Backpackers, p. 439), and/or Curio Bay (Curio Bay Backpackers, p. 440)
- See Cathedral Caves (p. 440) and Surat Bay (p. 438)

Otago

- See Wanaka (p. 396) – listing of day hikes on p. 403
- Hike part of Otago Central Rail Trail (p. 373) if time permits

West Coast

- Drive West Coast Highway (SH6) from Westport to Haast
- See Pancake Rocks/blowholes in Punakaiki
- Stop in Okarito and Haast for hiking/kayaking opportunities
- Hike Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers

Canterbury

- Day hikes in the Southern Alps at Arthur's Pass (p. 334)
- Visit Lake Tekapo (p. 338) and Aoraki / Mt. Cook National Park (p. 340) – side trip from SH8 North, time permitting

Marlborough and Nelson

- Kaikoura (p. 279) – Swim with dolphins (Dolphin Encounters, www.dolphin.co.nz) and seals (www.sealswimkaikoura.co.nz); visit the seal colony on the Peninsula Walkway (1½ hr). Other possibilities: albatross tours; sea kayak rentals.
- Blenheim (p. 277) – wine tasting and food; tour wineries by bike
- Nelson (p. 286) – visit after Abel Tasman on the way to Picton (partial day visit; no must-see sights)